

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 (cancelled)

Claims 12 (currently amended) A cross-linked hyaluronic acid derivative according to Claim ~~17~~ 18 wherein the hydroxy groups of said hyaluronic acid derivative are sulphate or hemi-auccinylated.

Claim 13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (currently amended) A metal complex of a cross-linked hyaluronic acid derivative according to Claim ~~17~~ 18 in which the metal is selected from zinc, copper or iron.

Claim 15 (previously amended) A pharmaceutical composition useful as (a) a substitute for synovial fluid in the treatment of osteoarthritic conditions and for vitreous humor in the treatment of pathologies and side effects connected to ophthalmic surgery; (b) as a base for artificial tears formulation; (c) as a controlled release matrix of a medicament; and (d) as a healing and anti-adhesive agent, in which the principal active ingredient is a cross-linked hyaluronic acid derivative according to Claim ~~17~~ 18.

Claim 16 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (New) A hyaluronic acid derivative comprising cross-linked molecules of hyaluronic acid obtained by the reaction of the carboxylic acid groups of hyaluronic acid and a diamine of the formula $\text{NH}_2\text{-A-NH}_2$ wherein A is a linear C_2C_6 alkylene chain or a polyoxyalkylene chain of the formula $[(\text{CH}_2\text{-O-CH}_2)_2]_m$ wherein m is an integer from 2-10.